From the Javan *M. rhinophyllus* the present species differs in the small amount of sexual differentiation it has undergone (the pronotum being hornless, and the colour and general form the same in both sexes, and the azygous horn on the front of the clypeus in the male being short and inconspicuous), in having the mesosternal process directed forwards instead of downwards, in colour, in its slenderer form, and probably also in the crown of the head in the male being produced into a bilobed horizontal plate-like process overhanging the clypeus.

Hab. The specimen was presented to me several years ago by my friend and colleague Mr. Geoffrey Nevile, who had received it from Mr. W. Robert, of the Topographical Survey of India, by whom it was captured in the Naga hills, one of the hill-ranges of North-eastern India.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XVII. Figs. A-C.

Fig. A. *Mycteristes microphyllus*, nat. size.
Fig. B. Upper view of the head, enlarged.
Fig. C. Outline of the extremity of the clypeus, viewed from below; drawn to scale under a Ross's 3-inch.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Manual of the New-Zealand Coleoptera. By Capt. Thomas Broun. Published by command. Wellington: James Hughes. 1880.

A stout volume of 640 pages on the beetles of New Zealand, published at the expense of the local government, marks an era in the scientific history of the colonies. If we except Ceylon, no other British possession has shown itself so far above "the miserable theory of money on the ledger being the primary rule for empires, or for any higher entity than city-owls and their mice-catching."

Capt. Broun has laboured under immense difficulties. With few books and no opportunity of comparing his "new species," he has given very fair descriptions (beyond, indeed, the European average) of such as he believes to be undescribed. The author, moreover, living in the island of Kawau, had not even an opportunity of revising the proof-sheets of his work, although this has been ably done for him; and, as might be expected, he has not been able to satisfy himself as to the generic location of many of his species, nor has he always been fortunate in the names he has applied to them. We are sorry Dr. Hector, who appears to have seen the work through the press, did not suggest to Capt. Broun to change them.

The plan of the writer has been to give the original descriptions of various authors; and these are generally supplemented by re-

marks of his own ; but, as he has omitted the usual quotation commas, it requires some care to distinguish between them.

From the list given at the beginning we find that 1141 species are described. To those who have been in New Zealand, and noted the apparent scarcity of animal life (mosquitoes excepted), this must appear to be a very large number. Many, however, are only known at present from one or, at most, two or three specimens ; and some will perhaps be found to be merely varieties. As usual in island faunas, Curculionidæ are the most numerous ; they number 207 species ; then follow Longicorns 182, and Carabidæ with 135. Buprestidæ have only 2 species, Scarabæidæ 29 ; and all the Phytophagous families do not yield more than 36: these three groups are in marked contrast with the numerous species of the Australian fauna. The comparatively small families of Pselaphidæ and Colydiidæ are represented by 44 and 49 respectively.

There is very little in its beetle-fauna to connect New Zealand with Australia, and still less with any neighbouring land. Prof. Huxley considers these islands to form a distinct zoological province : they are certainly peculiar in the fragmentary character of their productions ; but they have no endemic groups larger than genera, and few of these are very remarkable. Captain Broun's list contains 355 genera : of these, 93 are represented in England, while the otherwise exclusively Australian genera are nearly confined to *Leperina*, *Adelium*, *Amarygmus*, *Tanychilus*, *Rhadinosomus*, *Pachyura*, and *Euthyrhinus*. With regard to the other orders of insects it is perhaps hazardous to say that they are not represented in such large numbers ; still there is reason to believe that the Coleoptera exceed all the rest together. It is to be hoped that this useful work will be followed by others completing the insect-fauna.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

February 4, 1881.—Thomas Boycott, M.D., F.L.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

"On the Origin of Colonial Organisms." By Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E. &c.

Every animal develops, directly or indirectly, from an "ovum" or egg ; and the plant springs, directly or indirectly, from the germ or seed. One chief difference between low and high forms of life consists in the fact that the development of the former ceases at a stage when the development of the latter has barely begun. The *Gregarina* is a microscopic speck of protoplasm living parasitically within the bodies of earthworms and other Articulated animals. When development takes place the body becomes oval, develops a wall or cyst, and the internal protoplasm breaks up into small